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YOUNG AVENGERS

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YOUNG AVENGERS

SIDEKICKS
PART FIVE

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When an idealistic 30th-century teenager discovers he is destined to become the time-traveling despot known as KANG THE CONQUEROR, he travels back to the 21st century to enlist the aid of Kang's greatest adversaries, THE AVENGERS.

However, Young Kang arrives in the present to learn that the Avengers have officially disbanded. With nowhere to turn, he uses his futuristic armor to break into Stark Industries where he downloads the programming and data files of the decommissioned android Avenger THE VISION into his CPU.

Discovering a failsafe program in the Vision software designed to pinpoint the exact locations of the next wave of Avengers, young Kang puts together a new team of super-powered teens, who, in an homage to the original Avengers, present themselves as the would-be teen sidekicks of Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, and the Hulk.

Dubbed "The Young Avengers" by the press, PATRIOT, IRON LAD, ASGARDIAN, and HULKLING are soon joined by CASSIE LANG (the daughter of the recently deceased Avenger, ANT-MAN) and KATE BISHOP, a resourceful, young Avengers fan who saved the team's life during one of their early adventures.

When KANG THE CONQUEROR finally arrives to return Iron Lad to his rightful place in the timestream, Iron Lad refuses to go. Seizing control of Iron Lad's armor, Kang turns the young man into a human bomb. The resultant explosion devastates everything and everyone within range, leaving Iron Lad defenseless, at the mercy of Kang...

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WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE?*

MAKE NO MISTAKE--THIS IS *YOUR* HANDIWORK.

THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED HERE FROM THE *FUTURE,* YOU ENDANGERED YOUR FRIENDS *AND* THEIR WORLD.

BUT IF YOU *RETURN* WITH ME, I ASSURE YOU, LIFE HERE WILL BE EXACTLY AS IT *WAS.*

BUT--

THERE'S NO TIME FOR DEBATE.

THE LONGER YOU AND I OCCUPY THE SAME MOMENT IN TIME, THE MORE *UNSTABLE* TIME ITSELF BECOMES.

WHAT ABOUT CASSIE?

WHO?

GIANT GIRL. SHE DISAPPEARED IN THE BLAST.

THE MOMENT WE STEP THROUGH THIS PORTAL, SHE-- AND *ALL* YOUR FRIENDS-- WILL BE JUST AS THEY WERE BEFORE YOU ARRIVED.

AND YOU'LL REMEMBER *NOTHING* ABOUT THEM WHATSOEVER.

BUT--

WE MUST *HURRY.* IF YOU VALUE YOUR FRIENDS' *LIVES--*

I'LL GO.

IRON LAD! WAIT!
CASSIE--!
OUT OF THE WAY, CHILD!
I AM NOT A CHILD!
CASSIE, NO!
IRON LAD!
HOLD ON!
I'M TRYING...
DON'T LET GO.

YOU OKAY?

YEAH...

THANKS.

THAT WAS--

YOU REALLY...

MMF--

WOW... SO...

I GUESS YOU CAN GROW AND SHRINK, HUH?

YEAH...

SORRY ABOUT THE KISS.

DON'T BE.

I'M NOT.

IN THAT CASE...

FOR LUCK.

"SO, WHERE IS KANG NOW?"

IN THE TIMESTREAM. PROBABLY ON HIS WAY BACK HERE.
AND HE'LL KEEP COMING BACK UNTIL I GO WITH HIM.
SO, WHAT DO WE DO? WAKE UP THE AVENGERS?
IF WE DO, THEY'LL FORCE IRON LAD TO GO WITH HIM.
IT'S OKAY, CASS.
I AM GOING WITH HIM.
WHAT?
YOU CAN'T.
I HAVE TO.
LOOK AROUND. EVERYTHING'S FALLING APART.
BUT KANG SAYS IF I GO BACK, IT'LL ALL BE EXACTLY THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE I GOT HERE.
HOW? WE'LL JUST WAKE UP TOMORROW MORNING, AND IT'LL BE LIKE NONE OF THIS EVER HAPPENED?
WAIT...
...WE WON'T BE YOUNG AVENGERS?
WILL WE EVEN...KNOW EACH OTHER?
PROBABLY NOT.
I'M SORRY.

NO.
YOU CAN'T GO.
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.
LET'S AT LEAST TALK ABOUT THIS.
THERE'S NO TIME. THE SECOND KANG SHOWS UP HERE--
THEN LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. GO SOMEPLACE ELSE.
WE CAN GO TO MY HOUSE.
THAT IS, IF THE UPPER WEST SIDE STILL EXISTS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE WE GO. KANG CAN TRACK MY ARMOR, REMEMBER?
SO, TAKE IT OFF.

KATE'S RIGHT.
BUT--
I'M SORRY. DID PATRIOT JUST ADMIT THAT I'M--
YEP.
WHAT I *MEANT* WAS--
GUYS, *STOP.*
WITHOUT MY ARMOR, I'M *POWERLESS...*
WE'LL PROTECT YOU.
...AND A LITTLE UNDERDRESSED.
WANT MY *CAPE?*
THANKS, BUT IT'S THE NOT-WEARING-PANTS THAT CONCERNS ME.
CAN WE JUST GET TO THE UPPER WEST SIDE, PLEASE?
WHAT ABOUT CAP AND JESS AND IRON MAN?
THEY'RE AS GOOD AS *DEAD...*

...UNLESS THE BOY COMES WITH *ME.*

WAIT FOR US AT BILLY'S HOUSE.

NO. HE'LL *KILL* THEM.

NOT IF HE'S TOO BUSY DEFENDING HIMSELF.

BUT--

GO!

THIS IS *IT*, GUYS. DON'T HOLD BACK. USE *ALL* YOUR POWERS--

--SIZE-CHANGING--

--SHAPE-SHIFTING--

--SPELL-CASTING--

SPELL-CASTING?

YEAH...AND SOMETIMES IT EVEN *WORKS.*

I'M DONE *PLAYING* WITH YOU, CHILDREN.

KLIK-KLIK

THAT'S TOO BAD, KANG...

...'CAUSE WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

KATE!!! LOOK OUT!!!

YOU OKAY?

YOU KINDA...SAVED MY LIFE.

I GUESS THAT MAKES US *EVEN*, HUH?

I *KNOW*.

DAMN.

WE HAVE TO *DISARM* THIS GUY.

HOW? HE'S GOT THIRTIETH-CENTURY *TECH* AND *WE'VE* GOT--

WE'VE GOT THIRTIETH-CENTURY TECH, TOO.

PATRIOT, PUT THE ARMOR *DOWN*.

BUT IF WE CAN ACTIVATE THE *VISION* SOFTWARE--

ALL KANG HAS TO DO IS *LOOK* AT THAT THING, AND IT TURNS INTO A *BOMB*.

PUT IT *DOWN*. *GENTLY*.

SO, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO *FIGHT* HIM?

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE? THAT'S THE KIND OF THING YOU NEED TO ASK *BEFORE* YOU LEAD THE TROOPS INTO BATTLE.

BESIDES, WHY ARE YOU ASKING THE GIRL WITH THE *SWORD*...

...WHEN YOU COULD BE ASKING THE *SPELL-CASTER*?

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CONCENTRATE ON *SPELL-CASTING*? I'M A LITTLE PRE-OCCUPIED TRYING TO STAY *ALIVE*.

CASSIE AND I'LL DISTRACT KANG. JUST DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO.

THAT'S THE *THING*. I'M *NEW* AT THIS...

...I DON'T *KNOW* WHAT I NEED TO DO.

YES, YOU *DO*. WE *PRACTICED* THIS.

DON'T FOCUS ON THE *PROBLEM*. FOCUS ON WHAT YOU *WANT*.

I *WANT* TO DISABLE KANG'S FORCE FIELD.

SAY IT *AGAIN*.

I *WANT* TO DISABLE KANG'S FORCE FIELD. I *WANT* TO DISABLE KANG'S FORCE FIELD...

GOOD. NOW IMAGINE WHAT IT'S GONNA *FEEL* LIKE *WHEN* YOU DISABLE KANG'S FORCE FIELD.

I WANT TO DISABLE KANG'S FORCEFIELD. I WANT TO DISABLE KANG'S FORCEFIELD...

WOW...

WHERE'D YOU GUYS *LEARN* THAT? A WICCAN MANUAL?

NO. ONE OF MY MOM'S SELF-HELP BOOKS.

I *WANT* TO DISABLE KANG'S FORCE FIELD!

I *WANT* TO DISABLE KANG'S--

BILLY!!!

FOOOM!

YOU OKAY?
DID IT *WORK?*
I THINK IT *DID.*
THEN I'M OKAY.
GET DOWN!
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO TAKE HIS *GUNS* AWAY.
IMPOSSIBLE. KANG'S TRANS-TEMPORAL ARMOR ALLOWS HIM TO PULL ANY WEAPON IN *HISTORY* OUT OF THE TIMESTREAM.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIS TRANS-TEMPORAL ARMOR AWAY.
HOW? WE CAN'T EVEN GET *NEAR* HIM.
MAYBE WE WON'T *HAVE* TO.
QUICK QUESTION?
HAVE YOU EVER *USED* ONE OF THOSE BEFORE?
EVERY SUMMER AT INTERLOCHEN NATIONAL MUSIC CAMP.
I *ALSO* PLAY THE CELLO.
THOK!

ZZZT
AAGH!
ZZZT
ZZZT
HOW DID YOU--?
IT'S ALL IN THE WRIST. IF WE *SURVIVE* THIS, I'LL *SHOW* YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "*IF*"?
WITHOUT HIS *ARMOR*, KANG'S...
...POWERLESS?
FAP!
THWOK
YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME, CHILD.

LET HIM GO!

NOT BAD FOR A GIRL WITH NO POWERS, HUH?

HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE?

YOU'VE DESTROYED MY ARMOR...

...STRANDED ME AT THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY...

...AND LEFT ME NO MEANS BY WHICH TO RESTORE THE TIMESTREAM.

NOW LET HIM GO, OR I'LL--

UNH--!

YOU WILL TELL ME WHERE THE BOY IS.

WHERE IS IRON LAD?

RIGHT HERE, KANG.

JUST LEAVE MY FRIENDS *ALONE*...

...AND I'LL GO *WITH* YOU.

WE'LL NEED YOUR *ARMOR*.

PUT THE SWORD DOWN, AND I'LL *GIVE* IT TO YOU.

PLEASE...

VERY WELL.

IRON LAD--

LISTEN, THERE'S SOME-THING YOU SHOULD *KNOW*.

WHAT *IS* IT?

I'M NOT IRON LAD.

THOK

CASSIE, LOOK OUT!

IT'S OKAY. I'VE GOT HIM.

OWW!

IF YOU'VE HURT HER...

...YOU'RE DEAD!

KRAKK

YOU CHILDREN DON'T SEEM TO *UNDERSTAND*...

...IF *I* DIE, THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT DIES *WITH* ME.

SO, IF *ANYONE* DOES ANY KILLING TODAY...

KLING

KLING

KLING

KLING

...IT'S GOING TO BE *ME*.

SHUMM

AAGH!

TEDDY!

I'M OKAY. IT'LL *HEAL*...

IWANT TOSTOPKANG IWANTTOSTOP KANGIWANT TOSTOP--

I DON'T USUALLY *ENJOY* KILLING CHILDREN, BUT IN *THIS* CASE...

UNH!!!

WHO...?

I AM...
VISION

YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS KANG THE CONQUEROR...

...A TIME-TRAVELING WARLORD FROM THE 30TH CENTURY.

YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE.

RETURN TO YOUR ERA AT ONCE.

I-- ACK--

I INTEND TO...

NLIN

...NOW THAT I AM IN POSSESSION OF MY *ARMOR* AGAIN.

FWUMP

SO, I'M ONLY GOING TO ASK *ONCE* MORE...

...BEFORE I START *KILLING* YOU.

WHERE IS *IRON LAD?*

THWOK

DROP THE RIFLE, KANG! NOW! OR I'LL--!

AAAGH--!

CAP--!

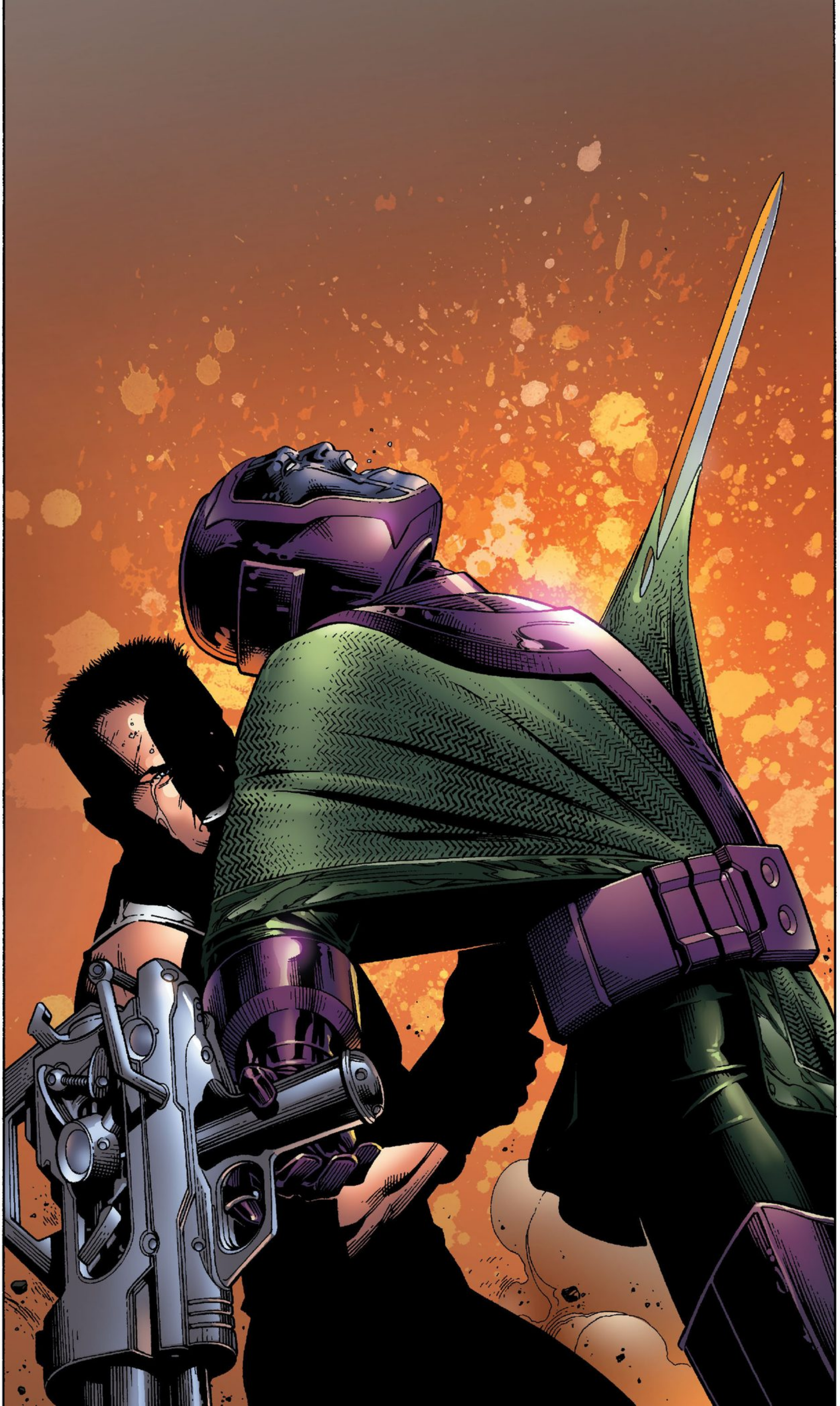
JESS--!

NO!

FZZZZ

WHO'S NEXT?

YOU ARE.



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